

Please reject the proposed rule # 02-230. By requiring the use of a 'broadcast flag' to control transmissions received by the public, consumers' right to fairly use/receive these signals by any means they wish will be impossible. Control over the ability to receive public broadcasts would be placed in the hands of a few private interests. Broadcasts by the public, as I've heard is also becoming more common in certain neighborhoods, could potentially be locked out by legally requiring this flag, the nature of which is privately determined by broadcast networks. This flag is simply a method for restrictions to be placed on broadcasts into the public domain, by a largely private interest group. That allows for someone to tell me that I cannot use my tv tuner card in my pc, because it is not equipped to recognise and receive such a flagged signal. It also potentially allows someone to tell me that I have to purchase their hardware to receive a public signal.

What is the real reason for such a broadcast flag anyway? If it is to control what can be seen by certain users, as a form of digital rights management, then it should be broadcast over a private network. Cable television is an example of a private network used to deliver private signals. Please don't allow and require that what was once a publically available resource must now be privatized.

thanks,  
-alan